

DECEMBER 2025

newsletter



WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

A Message From Your Chief

As we are nearing the end of the year, I want to extend my appreciation to our community for your ongoing trust and support of West Thurston Fire. This past year brought several challenges as we saw rising call volumes and increasing demands for our staffing and resources. Through it all, our crews continued to respond with professionalism, resilience, and a deep commitment to serving our community.

Despite these challenges, we also experienced many important successes. We strengthened our volunteer program, enhanced our training programs, and continue to maintain outstanding emergency response to our communities. We also increased our community outreach with school fire safety events and participating in community events to make a positive difference across the district. None of this would be possible without the support and partnership we receive from the residents we serve.

We are currently developing our next Strategic Plan, which will help guide the direction of the agency over the coming years. This plan will reflect both the realities we face, such as increasing service demands along with aging fleet and infrastructure. Ensuring we take opportunities to maintain a high level of service, community input remains essential, and we look forward to engaging with you throughout this process.

As you prepare for the winter months, please take a moment to test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, ensure address markers and driveways are visible for emergency vehicles, and review your family's emergency plan.

Our firefighters, EMTs, and staff remain committed to serving you 24/7 with compassion, readiness, and pride. Thank you for being an active part of keeping West Thurston safe and resilient. -Chief Nathan Drake



Upcoming Events

- January 12th** Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting
Station 1-1, 18720 Sargent RD SW, Rochester, WA
- January 26th** American Red Cross Blood Drive,
Station 1-1, 18720 Sargent RD SW, Rochester, WA
- February 9th** Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting
Station 1-2, 10828 Littlerock RD SW, Olympia, WA
- March 8th** Blood Cancer United Firefighter Stairclimb,
Columbia Tower, Seattle
- March 9th** Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting
Station 1-1, 18720 Sargent RD SW, Rochester, WA



Help us---- Help you.

West Thurston Regional Fire Association is now offering LIFESIGN, a highly reflective address sign designed to help emergency responders locate your home quickly—day or night, rain or shine.

Order forms are available at wtrfa.org or by calling the station.

courage. compassion. community

It shall be the mission of West Thurston Regional Fire Authority to develop, operate and manage resources granted by the people of the region to preserve lives and property in our communities by providing services directed toward prevention, management and mitigation of fire, emergency medical, rescue, and disaster incidents.

- 10828 Littlerock RD SW, Olympia, WA
- 360-352-1614
- www.wtrfa.org

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2025 Wildland Review

From May through October, our crews responded to 44 wildfires, with a total of 53.27 acres burned. While most incidents were small, 10 of these fires grew to one acre or more. We also responded to 11 wildfire incidents with our mutual aid partners. In addition to local responses, our personnel supported wildland mobilizations across the state. In 2025, we completed 10 wildfire deployments totaling 81 days, with an average assignment lasting six days, ranging from two to fourteen. Twelve personnel participated in these mobilizations, including three volunteers.

The Washington State Fire Mobilization Plan ensures rapid statewide support when local resources are overwhelmed, and under this plan, the RFA is reimbursed by the State or DNR for deployed personnel and apparatus. We couldn't be more proud of our crews for their readiness, dedication, and willingness to step up at a moment's notice to support communities in need.



Stay informed with TC Alert!

Sign up for Thurston County's official emergency notification system to get real-time updates on severe weather, evacuations, and urgent alerts. It's fast, free, and delivered straight to your phone or email. Sign up at tcalert.org.



For more educational content, real-time event updates, and response information, be sure to follow us on Facebook or Instagram and visit our website. www.wtrfa.org

Training

Our crews continue advancing their skills with regular fire and EMS training. WTRFA has also been hard at work with Blue Card Incident Command training. This is a standardized system for radio communications, arrival reports, and managing major incidents. In late 2025 we received a grant from FEMA to support our personnel with the initial training that is required. We are also preparing for the rollout of our ATV program, new rope equipment and training, and expanded water rescue capabilities launching in 2026. As teams wrap up the year with shift drills and quarterly training, we are excited to start 2026 strong and sharp.

Volunteer Program

We continually accept applications for our Volunteer Program, with the next round of interviews scheduled for April. Applications are available on our website or at any of our fire stations.

In 2024, we were able to hire a Volunteer Recruit and Retention Coordinator through a FEMA-funded grant. Over the past two years, our volunteer program has grown exponentially, and we are excited to continue building on that momentum as we serve our community.

We have also expanded our program to include a designated Aid Unit and a Resident Program, further enhancing our capabilities and allowing us to reach our highest potential.



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FREE SMOKE ALARMS

ALL HOME OWNERS IN WEST THURSTON'S FIRE DISTRICT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A FREE SMOKE ALARM. PLEASE CALL THE STATION TO LEAVE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER AND A CREW MEMBER WILL CONTACT YOU.

● Three out of five home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms and between the times of 11pm to 7am.

● Smoke spreads fast—you may have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire.

● Smoke alarms should be installed:
 Inside every bedroom
 Outside sleeping areas
 On every level of the home

**PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES.
INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS.
MAKE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.**



CONTACT US

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